IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning device condensing a beam deflected by a light deflector, by a scanning and imaging lens toward a surface to be scanned to form a beam spot thereon, and scanning the surface to be scanned by the beam spot,

wherein at least one lens of the scanning and imaging lens is configured so that a lens body thereof is held by a holding frame,

wherein an inner rib surface at an end in a longitudinal direction of the holding frame is inclined so that a ghost light generated as a result of the deflected beam being reflected by the holding frame is turned outside of an effective writing range in a main scan direction, and

wherein an outer rib surface at the end in the longitudinal direction of the holding frame is parallel to an optical axis through a center of the scanning and imaging lens.

4. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said inner rib surface is inclined as a result of being rotated about an axis parallel to a sub-scan direction of the scanning and imaging lens.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said lens body and holding frame are manufactured through integral molding of a plastic material.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus of performing optical scanning of a photosensitive surface of a photosensitive medium by an optical scanning device, forming a latent image, and visualizing the latent image,

wherein the optical scanning device performing the optical scanning of the photosensitive surface of the photosensitive medium condenses the beam deflected by a light deflector, by a scanning and imaging lens toward a surface to be scanned as the photosensitive surface to form a beam spot thereon, and scans the surface to be scanned by the beam spot,

wherein at least one lens of the scanning and imaging lens is configured so that a lens body thereof is held by a holding frame,

wherein an inner rib surface at an end in a longitudinal direction of the holding frame is inclined so that a ghost light generated as a result of the deflected beam being reflected by the holding frame is turned outside of an effective writing range in a main scan direction, and

wherein an outer rib surface at the end in the longitudinal direction of the holding frame is parallel to an optical axis through a center of the scanning and imaging lens.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning method of condensing a beam deflected by a light deflector, by a scanning and imaging lens toward a surface to be scanned to form a beam spot thereon, and scanning the surface to be scanned by the beam spot,

wherein at least one lens of the scanning and imaging lens is configured so that a lens body thereof is held by a holding frame,

wherein an inner rib surface at an end in a longitudinal direction of the holding frame is inclined so that a ghost light generated as a result of the deflected beam being reflected by the holding frame is turned outside of an effective writing range in a main scan direction, and

wherein an outer rib surface at the end in the longitudinal direction of the holding frame is parallel to an optical axis through a center of the scanning and imaging lens.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning device condensing a beam deflected by means for deflecting light, for scanning and for imaging toward a surface to be scanned to form a beam spot thereon, and scanning the surface to be scanned by the beam spot,

wherein at least one lens of the means for scanning and means for imaging is configured so that a lens body thereof is held by a holding frame,

wherein an inner rib surface at an end in a longitudinal direction of the holding frame is inclined so that a ghost light generated as a result of the deflected beam being reflected by the holding frame is turned outside of an effective writing range in a main scan direction, and

wherein an outer rib surface at the end in the longitudinal direction of the holding frame is parallel to an optical axis through a center of the scanning and imaging lens.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning device as in claim 4,

wherein an inclination angle α of the inner rib surface satisfies

$\{ H - L \times \tan(\theta - 2\alpha) \} > W/2$, and

$\alpha < \theta$,

wherein H is a height of the inner rib surface from the optical axis, L is a distance between the inner rib surface and the surface to be scanned, W is the effective writing range and θ is a half field angle on the inner rib surface.

19. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus as in claim 10,

wherein an inclination angle α of the inner rib surface about an axis parallel to a sub-scan direction of the scanning and imaging lens satisfies

$\{ H - L \times \tan(\theta - 2\alpha) \} > W/2$, and

$\alpha < \theta$,

wherein H is a height of the inner rib surface from the optical axis, L is a distance between the inner rib surface and the surface to be scanned, W is the effective writing range and θ is a half field angle on the inner rib surface.

20. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning method as in claim 13,

wherein an inclination angle α of the inner rib surface about an axis parallel to a sub-scan direction of the scanning and imaging lens satisfies

$\{ H - L \times \tan(\theta - 2\alpha) \} > W/2$, and

$\alpha < \theta$,

wherein H is a height of the inner rib surface from the optical axis, L is a distance between the inner rib surface and the surface to be scanned, W is the effective writing range and θ is a half field angle on the inner rib surface.

21. (Previously Presented) An optical scanning device as in claim 16,

wherein an inclination angle α of the inner rib surface about an axis parallel to a sub-scan direction of the scanning and imaging lens satisfies

$\{ H - L \times \tan(\theta - 2\alpha) \} > W/2$, and

$\alpha < \theta$,

wherein H is a height of the inner rib surface from the optical axis, L is a distance between the inner rib surface and the surface to be scanned, W is the effective writing range and θ is a half field angle on the inner rib surface.